

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 02452 221002Z  
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 COME-00 NSF-01 L-03 INT-05 /050 W  
-----221010 127574 /12

R 220910Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5614  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2452

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, JA, UR  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED US-USSR SEISMIC EXPERIMENTATION ON ISLAND IN  
DISPUTE BETWEEN USSR AND JAPAN

SUMMARY: EMBASSY DISTURBED TO LEARN OF APPARENT AGREE-  
MENT OF US-USSR EXPERTS TO CONDUCT SEISMIC RESEARCH ON  
AND AROUND "SHIKOTAN ISLAND, USSR". RECOMMEND RE-  
CONSIDERATION OF PLAN, WHICH JAPANESE WOULD VIEW AS  
USG SUPPORT FOR SOVIET POSITION ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES.  
END SUMMARY.

1. USSR-US MEETING OF EXPERTS ON INTEGRATION OF TSUNAMI  
WARNING SYSTEMS AGREED SEPT. 22-26, 1976, ACCORDING TO  
RECORD OF CONVERSATION (P. 10) FORWARDED US BY DEPARTMENT  
(EA/J), THAT BEST LOCATION TO INSTALL A US SEISMOGRAPH  
UNDER AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM WOULD BE YUZHNO-SAKHALIN OR  
"SHIKOTAN ISLAND, USSR". LATTER ISLAND IS ONE OF THE FOUR  
"NORTHERN TERRITORIES" OCCUPIED BY USSR SINCE END OF WW II,  
WHICH US HAS CONSISTENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED AS UNDER JAPANESE  
SOVEREIGNTY. RECORD OF CONVERSATION (P. 12) SHOWS  
THAT EXPERTS HAVE AGREED TO CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS NEAR  
SHIKOTAN FROM AUGUST 1977, AND COVERING NOAA LETTER TO  
EPA REQUESTS US SCIENTISTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE EXPERIMENT  
BE TRANSHIPPED THROUGH JAPANESE PORT TO MEET SOVIET RESEARCH  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 02452 221002Z

VESSEL. RECORD ALSO SHOWS A SEPARATE "JOINT" US-JAPAN  
PROJECT IN THE SAME AREA BEGINNING IN APRIL 1977, WHICH  
APPEARS TO BE RELATED TO US-SOVIET EFFORT. WE DO NOT  
KNOW IF GOJ IS AWARE OF EITHER PROJECT OR THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

2. US PARTICIPATION IN SHIKOTAN PROJECT WOULD SERIOUSLY  
DISTURB GOJ. AT VERY LEAST THEY WOULD VIEW PROJECT AS

EVIDENCING EXTREME INSENSITIVITY TO GOJ POSITION ON NORTHERN  
TERRITORIES ISSUE WHICH REMAINS MOST VISIBLE OBSTACLE  
TO PEACE TREATY WITH USSR. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT REVIEW  
RECORD ON THIS PROJECT WITH VIEW TO MOVING ANY BILATERAL  
EXPERIMENTS AWAY FROM THIS SENSITIVE LOCATION. IN THE  
MEANTIME RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ  
RE ENTRY OF SCIENTISTS AND EQUIPMENT, OR REGARDING POSSIBLE  
TRI-LATERALIZATION OF PROJECT. PLEASE ADVISE.  
SHOESMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLORATION, DISPUTES, WARNING SYSTEMS, SEISMOGRAPHS, SHIKOTAN ISLAND  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TOKYO02452  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770060-1178  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770219/aaaaarki.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 57d560c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3258734  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED US-USSR SEISMIC EXPERIMENTATION ON ISLAND IN DISPUTE BETWEEN USSR AND JAPAN SUMMARY: EMBASSY DISTURBED TO LEARN OF APPARENT A  
**TAGS:** PFOR, JA, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/57d560c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009